By
MIKE W. BARR
JOHN CALIMEE
MICHAEL OEMING
BRIAN BOLLAND

Innovation welcomes fan favorite British illustrator **Brian Bolland** to the cover artwork of this issue of *THE MAZE AGENCY*!

Join New York's prettiest detective, Jennifer Mays, and true crime writer Gabriel Webb, for another fair-play whodunit that challenges you to solve the mystery as it unfolds!

THIS ISSUE: In "The Problem of the Devil's Bedchamber," Scott Clement claims to be the reincarnation of a murder victim from 25 years ago. But when he is murdered *again* -- inside a locked room in the house of an infamous satanist -- it takes Jennifer Mays and Gabriel Webb of The MAZE Agency to solve this maddening mystery!

Well-Done Mediums Are Rare!

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INNOVATION™

This May, We'll Be *LOST IN SPACE*!

In cooperation with Viacom, Innovation will premiere the release of an all-new ***LOST IN SPACE*** full-color series in May '91 with the involvement of Bill Mumy -- Will Robinson of the original 1960s TV series. "What Marvel and DC and CBS and 20th Century Fox couldn't achieve, you did," read an October '90 letter from author/actor/musician Bill Mumy to Innovation. "You get to tell new stories. To add to the legacy. Congratulations."

Based nearly three years after the conclusion of the original series, Innovation's ***LOST IN SPACE*** updates concepts from the original series but with the attitudes of the '90s. The Robinson family will still find themselves lost in space in 1997, although the depth of background, character and motivational aspects, and subtexts have been fully thought out.

"Expect this series to be much more realistic and exciting than the original show. How did we get the technology to make a space sojourn by 1997? What happened to the space program back on Earth?" asks series editor David Campiti. "How do they deal with the skewed family unit, considering John and Maureen Robinson have each other, Don West has Judy, but Penny and Will are well into their teens and never colonized with the others that were to follow them into space?"

"It's still *Lost In Space*, taking the best elements of early episodes of the show," explains Innovation's art director and series co-editor George Broderick, "but it no longer has the silly sensibilities of the 1960s Batman show it was battling back then, in the ratings."

"Several months ago," recalls Campiti, "I read in the *Comics Buyer's Guide* about Bill Mumy accepting the assignment of writing Valiant's resurrection of Gold Key's *Space Family Robinson* while lamenting that he'd never get the chance to do a comics version of the show he starred in." Innovation, it turned out, was already in touch with Viacom, and soon secured the rights virtually without a hitch. "I'd spoken with Viacom about various properties for licensing mentioned that I couldn't see *Lost In Space* being done in the same tone as the old show. When they asked, 'Well, what would you do with it?' -- thinking on my feet -- I pitched an opening and direction they appreciated and approved. I wouldn't have gone after it if I hadn't read Bill's interview. It was a case of, 'Here I am, able to make a dream come true,' so I did it.

"At San Diego Con, I approached Bill, congratulated him on *Space Family Robinson*, and pulled out an original painting by Mike Okamoto, while saying, 'So: How would you like to work on the real thing?' Originally, Bill couldn't believe we'd secured the rights," says Campiti. "But we supplied him with a copy of the contracts and our ideas about what we hoped to do with the project. After double-checking everything, Bill called us, anxious to begin work."

"I must admit, I was very skeptical," says Bill Mumy. "I figured if DC couldn't do it, and Marvel couldn't do it, then Innovation couldn't do it. I was wrong -- I guess that's why they call them 'Innovation.'"

Since then, David Campiti and Innovation's Art Director George Broderick have been discussing ideas with Bill Mumy, David Lawrence, and popular writer William Messner-Loebs to firm up a direction for the series' initial 12-issue run.

David Campiti and George Broderick have plotted the first issue, which is scripted by Matt Thompson and painted by Eddy Newell. Broderick has scripted issue #2, which Matt Thompson will paint. Bill Mumy has turned in a two-part storyline for #3 and #4; George Broderick is writing a "special revelations" story intended for issue #5; David Lawrence is developing plotslines; and William Messner-Loebs is hoping to find time in his schedule to write an issue. Innovation is actively encouraging stories from some of the best in the business, as well as enticing other members of the original cast -- such as Mark (pilot Don West) Goddard -- to write for the project.

Mike (***ON A PALE HORSE***) Okamoto provides the premiere cover painting; Matt (***LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS***) Thompson and Eddy (***NECROMANCER***) Newell will fully paint several of the issues, though additional art assignments have yet to be made. George Perez has offered to provide covers for some of Bill Mumy's stories.

Some issues of the book will be line art with airbrush grayline color, although some issues will be fully painted, along the lines of ***THE VAMPIRE LESTAT***.

In full color in a high-quality cardstock cover format similar to ***THE VAMPIRE LESTAT*** series, ***LOST IN SPACE #1*** will premiere in May with a cover price of $2.50.

Bill Mumy says he hopes "very much to guide this project. After all, I was there."

-- Jim Elliott
February, 1991

THE MAZE AGENCY®
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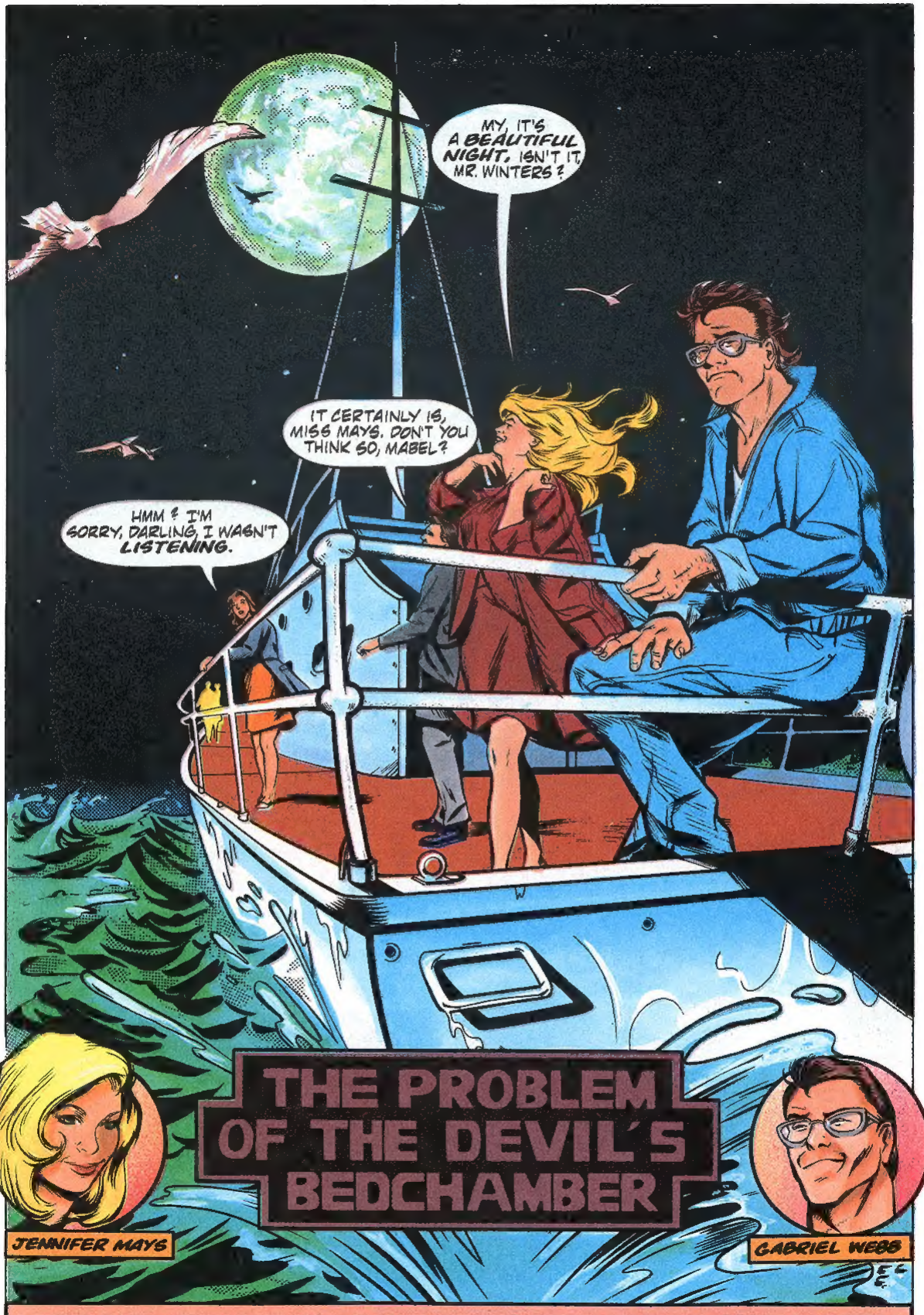
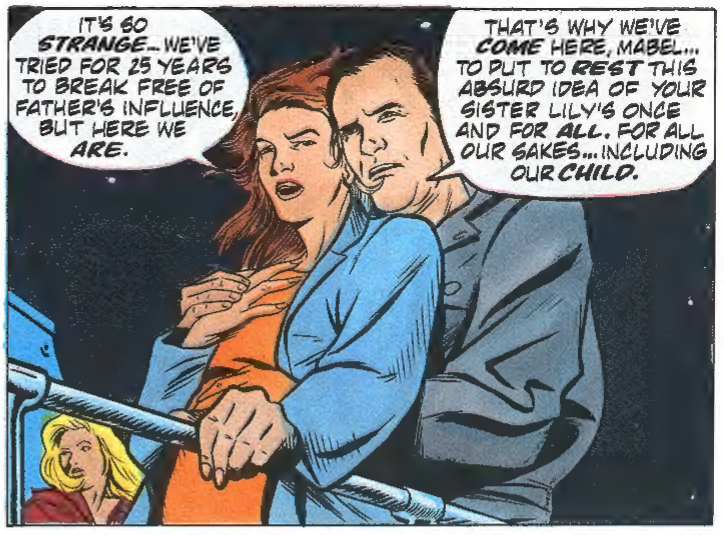


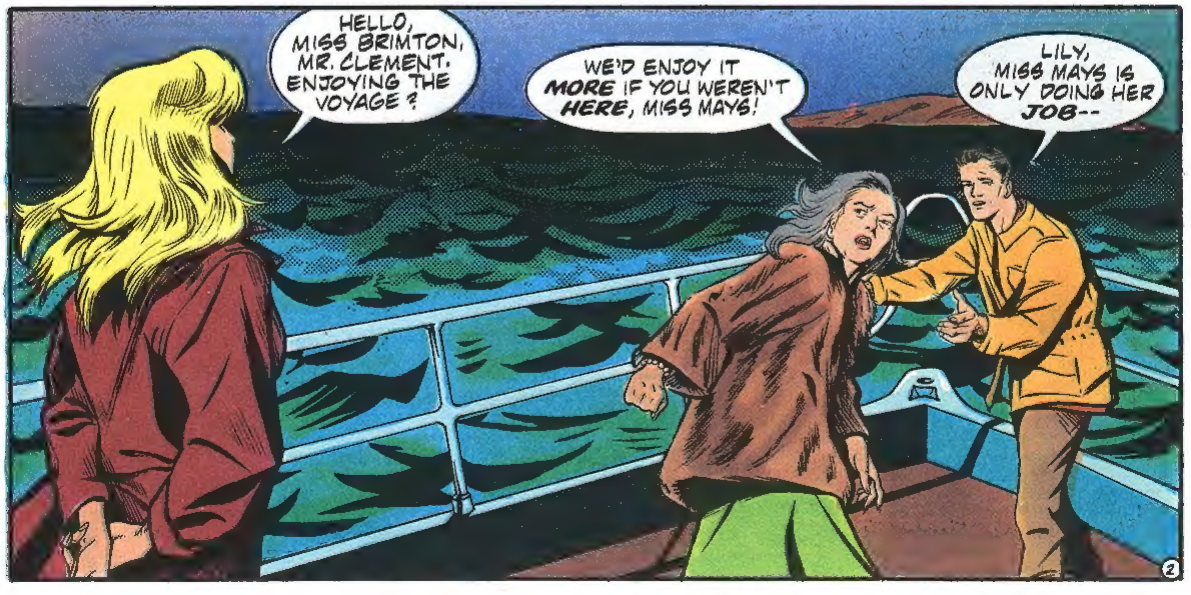
MIKE W. BARR	JOHN CALIMEE	MICHAEL OEMING	VICKIE WILLIAMS	SCOTT ROCKWELL
Writer/Creator	Penciller	Inker	Letterer	Colorist

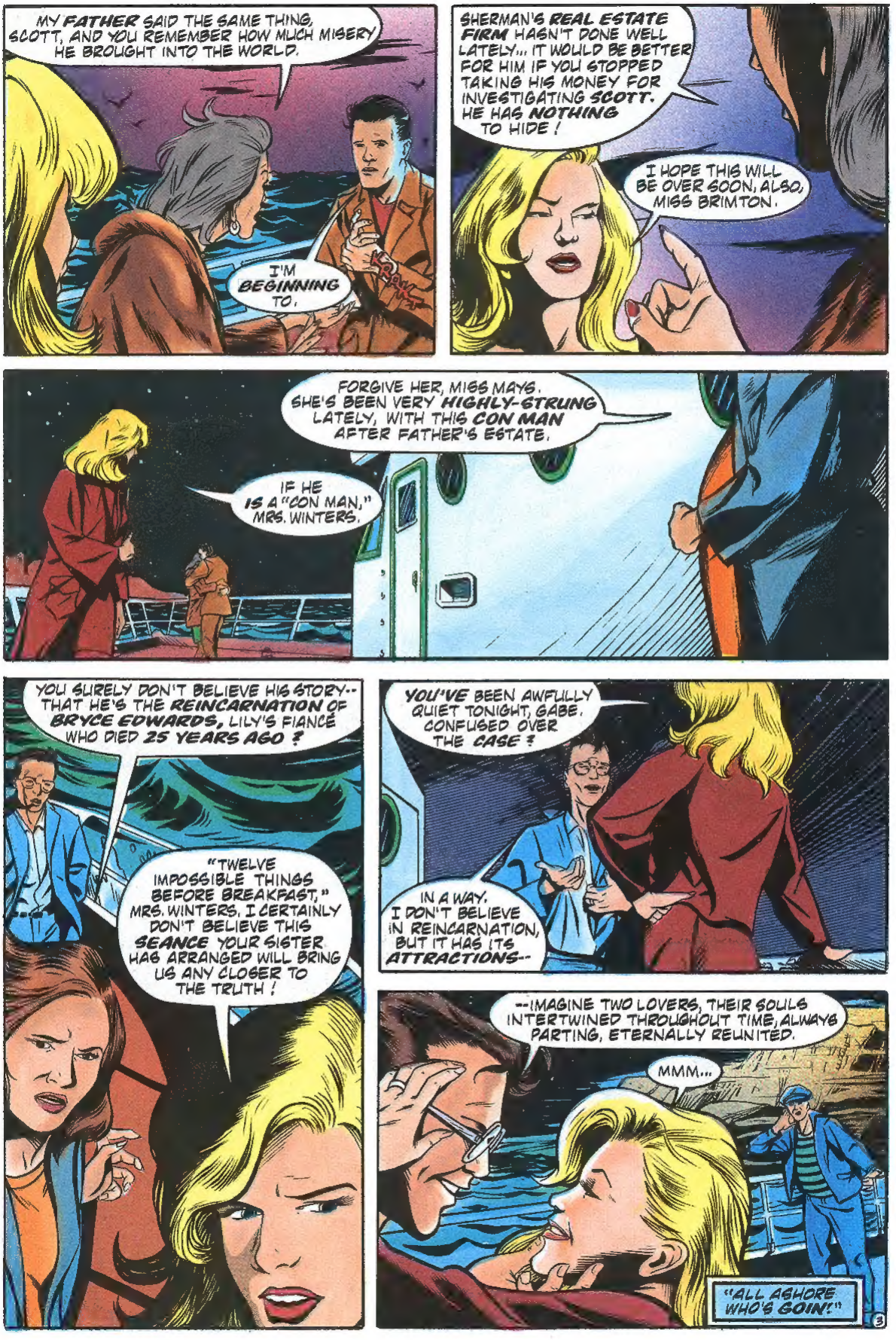
"...I WAS THINKING ABOUT RETURNING HOME, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS."


IT'S SO STRANGE... WE'VE TRIED FOR 25 YEARS TO BREAK FREE OF FATHER'S INFLUENCE, BUT HERE WE ARE.
THAT'S WHY WE'VE COME HERE, MABEL... TO PUT TO REST THIS ABSURD IDEA OF YOUR SISTER LILY'S ONCE AND FOR ALL. FOR ALL OUR SAKES... INCLUDING OUR CHILD.

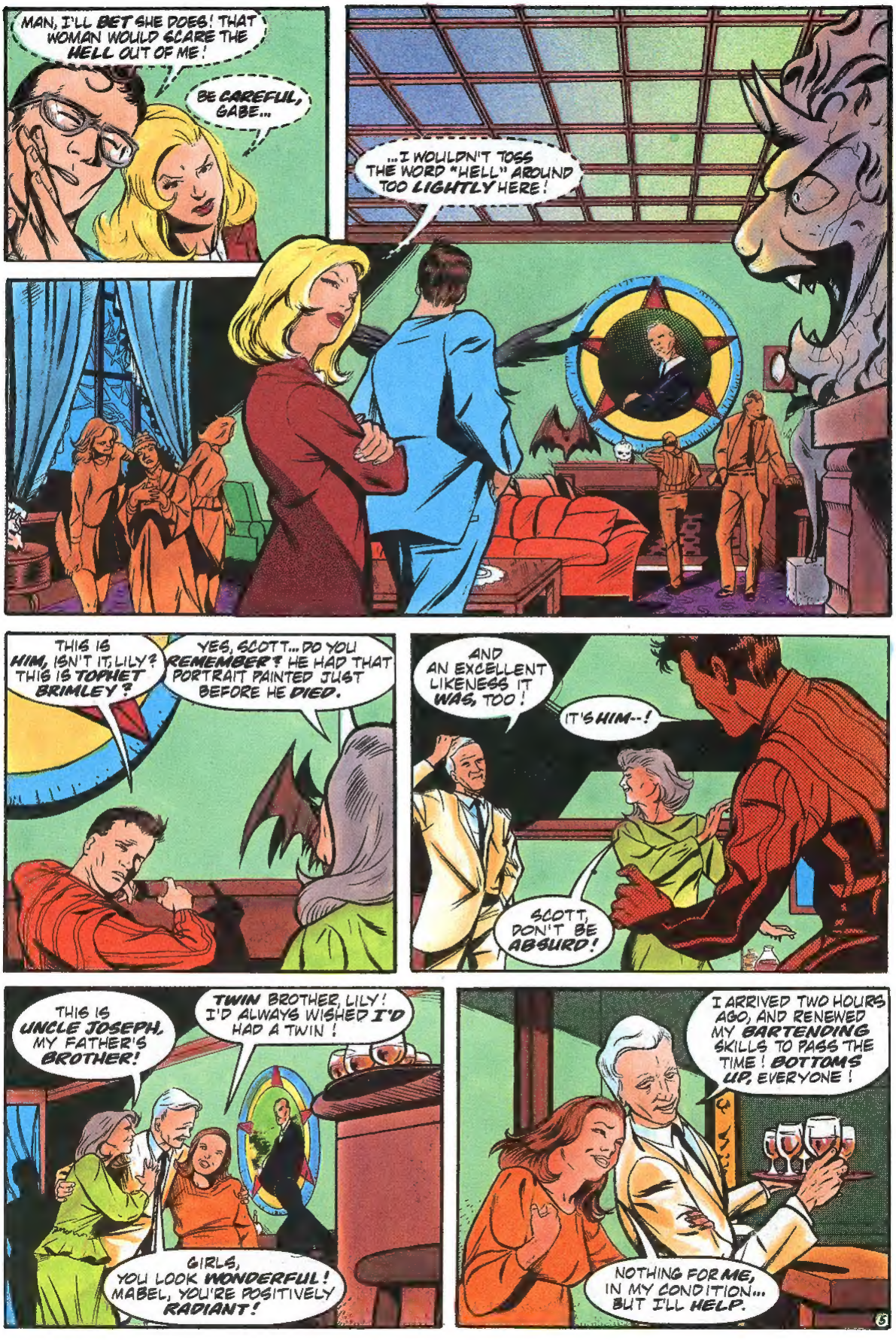
DO YOU REMEMBER, SCOTT? NOW THAT YOU SEE IT?
I DON'T KNOW IF I WANT TO, LILY... IT'S NOT EASY TO ASK A MAN TO RECALL HIS OWN DEATH.

TRY, DEAREST. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE'LL CONVINCE THE OTHERS THAT YOU'VE COME BACK TO ME, AT LAST.
I AM TRYING, LIL... FOR YOU.


HELLO, MISS BRIMTON, MR. CLEMENT. ENJOYING THE VOYAGE?
WE'D ENJOY IT MORE IF YOU WEREN'T HERE, MISS MAYS!
LILY, MISS MAYS IS ONLY DOING HER JOB--
2

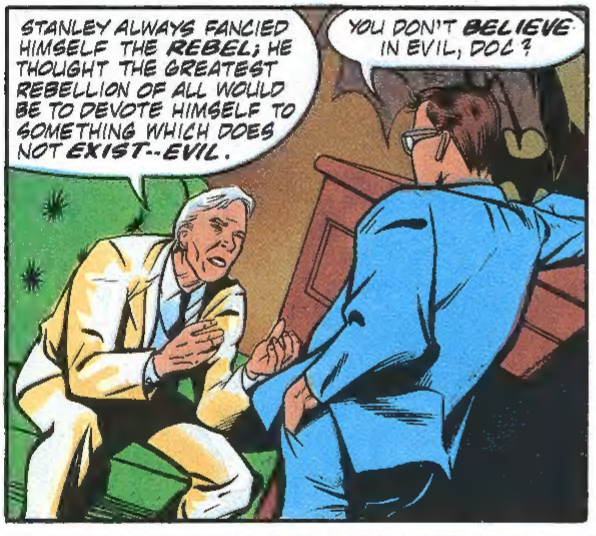

MY FATHER SAID THE SAME THING, SCOTT, AND YOU REMEMBER HOW MUCH MISERY HE BROUGHT INTO THE WORLD.
I'M BEGINNING TO.
SHERMAN'S REAL ESTATE FIRM HASN'T DONE WELL LATELY... IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM IF YOU STOPPED TAKING HIS MONEY FOR INVESTIGATING SCOTT. HE HAS NOTHING TO HIDE!
I HOPE THIS WILL BE OVER SOON, ALSO, MISS BRIMTON.
FORGIVE HER, MISS MAYS. SHE'S BEEN VERY HIGHLY-STRUNG LATELY, WITH THIS CON MAN AFTER FATHER'S ESTATE.
IF HE IS A "CON MAN," MRS. WINTERS.
YOU SURELY DON'T BELIEVE HIS STORY-- THAT HE'S THE REINCARNATION OF BRYCE EDWARDS, LILY'S FIANCÉ WHO DIED 25 YEARS AGO?
"TWELVE IMPOSSIBLE THINGS BEFORE BREAKFAST," MRS. WINTERS, I CERTAINLY DON'T BELIEVE THIS SEANCE YOUR SISTER HAS ARRANGED WILL BRING US ANY CLOSER TO THE TRUTH!
YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY QUIET TONIGHT, GABE. CONFUSED OVER THE CASE?
IN A WAY. I DON'T BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION, BUT IT HAS ITS ATTRACTIONS--
--IMAGINE TWO LOVERS, THEIR SOULS INTERTWINED THROUGHOUT TIME, ALWAYS PARTING, ETERNALLY REUNITED.
MMM...
"ALL ASHORE WHO'S GOIN!"

WATCH YER STEP, MIZ LILITH...'SPECIALLY YOU, MIZ MEPHISTA.
PLEASE, CRADDOCK... WE NO LONGER CALL OURSELVES BY THOSE NAMES!
SORRY, MA'AM--OLD HABITS DIE HARD.
GOD, IT'S AS THOUGH WE NEVER LEFT! I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GO THROUGH WITH THIS, LILY!
PLEASE, MABEL!
HEY, WHO'S THE DECORATOR, CHARLES ADDAMS?
I GOT SOME WORK T'DO ON THE RADIO.
GABE--!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DEAR?
I'LL BE FINE, SHERMAN... IT'S ALL THESE MEMORIES THAT COME FLOODING BACK...
EEEEK!
MABEL!
VHAT--?
THIS IS MADAME CARLYLE, THE MEDIUM I ARRANGED FOR, MABEL! I TOLD YOU!
YOU CERTAINLY DID! I'M SORRY, MADAME!
PLEASE, IS NOTHING--AN EFFECT I OFTEN HAVE!


MAN, I'LL BET SHE DOES! THAT WOMAN WOULD SCARE THE HELL OUT OF ME!
BE CAREFUL, GABE...
...I WOULDN'T TOSS THE WORD "HELL" AROUND TOO LIGHTLY HERE!
THIS IS HIM, ISN'T IT, LILY? THIS IS TOPHET BRIMLEY?
YES, SCOTT... DO YOU REMEMBER? HE HAD THAT PORTRAIT PAINTED JUST BEFORE HE DIED.
AND AN EXCELLENT LIKENESS IT WAS, TOO!
IT'S HIM--!
SCOTT, DON'T BE ABSURD!
THIS IS UNCLE JOSEPH, MY FATHER'S BROTHER!
TWIN BROTHER, LILY! I'D ALWAYS WISHED I'D HAD A TWIN!
GIRLS, YOU LOOK WONDERFUL! MABEL, YOU'RE POSITIVELY RADIANT!
I ARRIVED TWO HOURS AGO, AND RENEWED MY BARTENDING SKILLS TO PASS THE TIME! BOTTOMS UP, EVERYONE!
NOTHING FOR ME, IN MY CONDITION... BUT I'LL HELP.

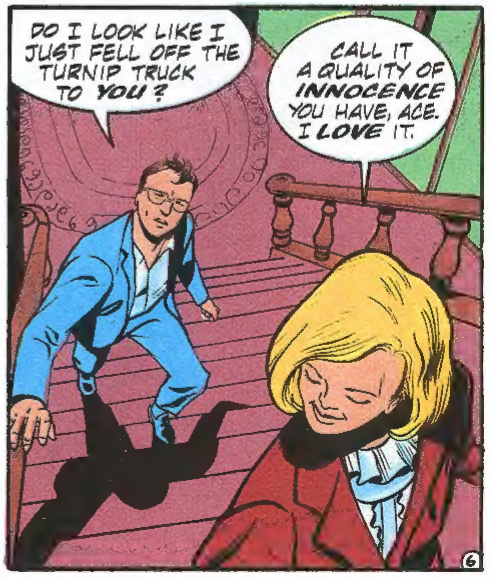
I TAKE IT YOU KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND THIS HOUSE, DOC?
AT ONE TIME, I DID. BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE FOR YEARS. POOR STANLEY; ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOME WAY TO STAND OUT...

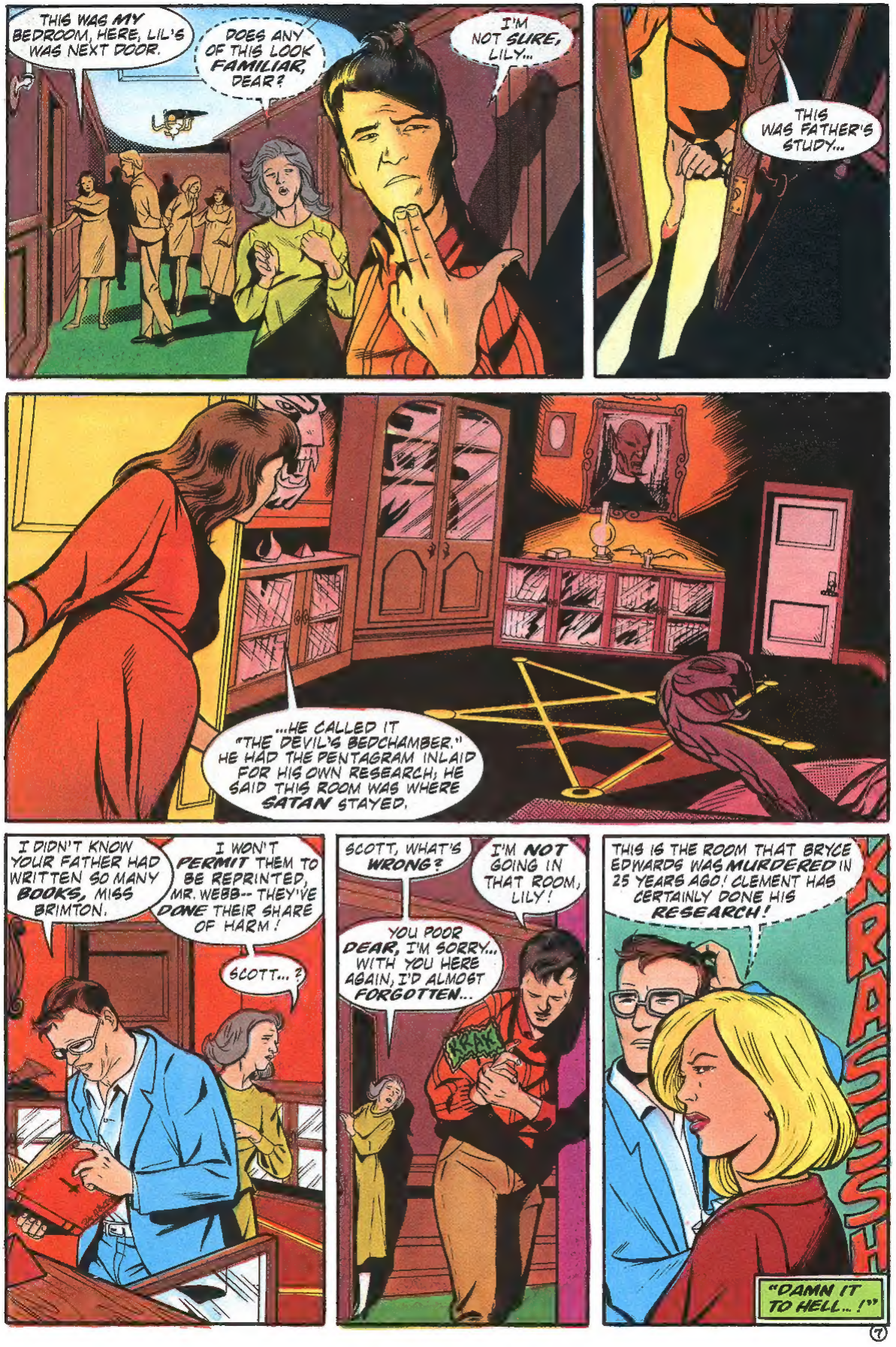
"STANLEY"?
HE WAS BORN STANLEY RYKER, HE TOOK A NAME OF "HELL"-- TOPHET--AND AN ABBREVIATION OF THE WORD "BRIMSTONE" FOR HIS COGNOMEN.


STANLEY ALWAYS FANCIED HIMSELF THE REBEL; HE THOUGHT THE GREATEST REBELLION OF ALL WOULD BE TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO SOMETHING WHICH DOES NOT EXIST--EVIL.
YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN EVIL, DOC?

NO, MR. WEBB, AS MY NEW BOOK, "BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL," WILL ATTEST.
WELL, I'M A WRITER, TOO-- TRUE CRIME, MOSTLY-- BUT I'M AN EX- DIVINITY STUDENT, AND I'VE SEEN A LOT OF EVIL IN MY TIME.

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A LOOK THROUGH THE HOUSE, UNCLE JOSEPH, WANT TO COME ALONG?
CERTAINLY, MABEL.
WHEN YOU'VE SEEN AS MUCH "TIME" AS I, MR. WEBB, WE'LL DISCUSS THIS AGAIN.


DO I LOOK LIKE I JUST FELL OFF THE TURNIP TRUCK TO YOU?
CALL IT A QUALITY OF INNOCENCE YOU HAVE, ACE. I LOVE IT.


THIS WAS MY BEDROOM, HERE, LIL'S WAS NEXT DOOR.
DOES ANY OF THIS LOOK FAMILIAR, DEAR?
I'M NOT SURE, LILY...
THIS WAS FATHER'S STUDY...
...HE CALLED IT "THE DEVIL'S BEDCHAMBER." HE HAD THE PENTAGRAM INLAID FOR HIS OWN RESEARCH; HE SAID THIS ROOM WAS WHERE SATAN STAYED.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR FATHER HAD WRITTEN SO MANY BOOKS, MISS BRIMTON.
I WON'T PERMIT THEM TO BE REPRINTED, MR. WEBB-- THEY'VE DONE THEIR SHARE OF HARM!
SCOTT...?
SCOTT, WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M NOT GOING IN THAT ROOM, LILY!
YOU POOR DEAR, I'M SORRY... WITH YOU HERE AGAIN, I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN...
KRAK
THIS IS THE ROOM THAT BRYCE EDWARDS WAS MURDERED IN 25 YEARS AGO! CLEMENT HAS CERTAINLY DONE HIS RESEARCH!
KRASSSH
"DAMN IT TO HELL..!"

DR. RYKER, ARE YOU WELL--?
THESE DOORS ARE HEAVIER THAN THEY LOOK...! CAUGHT MY HAND AS IT SLAMMED SHUT...!
LET A TRAINED NURSE HANDLE THAT, UNCLE JOSEPH. YOU PICKED A RISKY PLACE FOR A WOUND. THAT CABINET CONTAINS FATHER'S COLLECTION OF POISON NEEDLE RINGS.
THE TIME DRAWS NEAR. LET US REPAIR...
"...TO THE SEANCE ROOM.
TAKE YOUR PLACES, PLEASE. NO UNNECESSARY TALKING, AND NO JOCULARITY!
MISS MAYS, YOU AND MR. WEBB WILL BE ON EITHER SIDE OF ME.
I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH MR. CLEMENT.
THIS IS MY DOMAIN--YOU VILL NOT QUESTION.
FOR THE SUBJECT TO BE ACROSS FROM THE MEDIUM IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS. TO PREVENT FAKERY, YOU WILL SUBMIT TO ONE OTHER CONDITION...
...THESE. YOU WILL SECURE YOURSELF TO THE PERSONS NEXT TO YOU.
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS NECESSARY?
DO IT, SHERMAN! ENOUGH OF YOUR DOUBTS!

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Seven art-sized plates by Adam Hughes. Now out of print! ($14.95)

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#1 -- By Thompson/Elliott ($6.95)

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#1 -- Intro by Harlan Ellison! ($2.95)

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#14 - #21 (All-new, $2.50 each)
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ANNUAL #1 -- Eisner hommage issue. Art by Ploog and Loebs! ($2.75)

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#1 -- Comico's first four issues revised and reprinted, plus new Adam Hughes art and cover! Special: ($4.95)

NEWSTRALIA (Full Color)
#1 -- From creator of *Hawkworld*! Tim Truman art. *Sold out from publisher!* ($10.00)
#2 through #5 -- ($2.25 each)

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#1 -- Story and art by Alex Nino! ($1.95)

*NINJA*BOTS SUPER SPECIAL*
#1 -- Ye gods! Special: ($1.50)

OVERTURE
#1 -- Humor. Recommended! ($2.25)
#2 -- Insanity reigns ($2.25)

Piers Anthony's Incarnations of Immortality: ON A PALE HORSE (Full Color)
#1 -- 52 pages, fully painted by Mike Okamoto! ($4.95)

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#1 -- Innovation's mini-series begins. Tom *(Starman)* Lyle art! ($2.25)
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#3 -- Mini-series cliffhanger! ($2.25)

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#1 -- All-new action! Sexy cover! ($2.75)

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#1 -- Adventures from "down under" ($2.50)

SCARAMOUCH
#1 -- Weird horror, like "What if Stephen King had written *Green Acres*?" ($2.25)
#2 -- It gets even weirder ($2.25)

SCARLET KISS: THE VAMPIRE
#1 -- 52 pp! High school girls as vampires! Jackson Guice cover! ($3.00)

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#1 -- "A Study In Scarlet" Graphic Novel. *Sold out from the publisher!* ($8.95)

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#1 -- In the *Elfquest* tradition! ($3.95)

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#1 -- Sophisticated suspense from the creators of *Scimidar*! ($3.50)
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TERRAFORMERS (Full Color)
#1 -- Kelley (*Deadman*) Jones art! ($1.50)
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Terry Pratchett's THE COLOUR OF MAGIC (Full Color)
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#1 -- Time-tripping from Gerard Jones, author of *Justice League* and *The Trouble With Girls*! Pulp-style cover by Okamoto! ($2.25)
#2 -- Okamoto "jungle girl" cover! ($2.25)

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#1 -- Olivia De Berardinis cover! ($3.00)
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#1 -- Brunner, Chaykin, Muth, and more! *Sold out from publisher!* Some scuffs. ($12.95)

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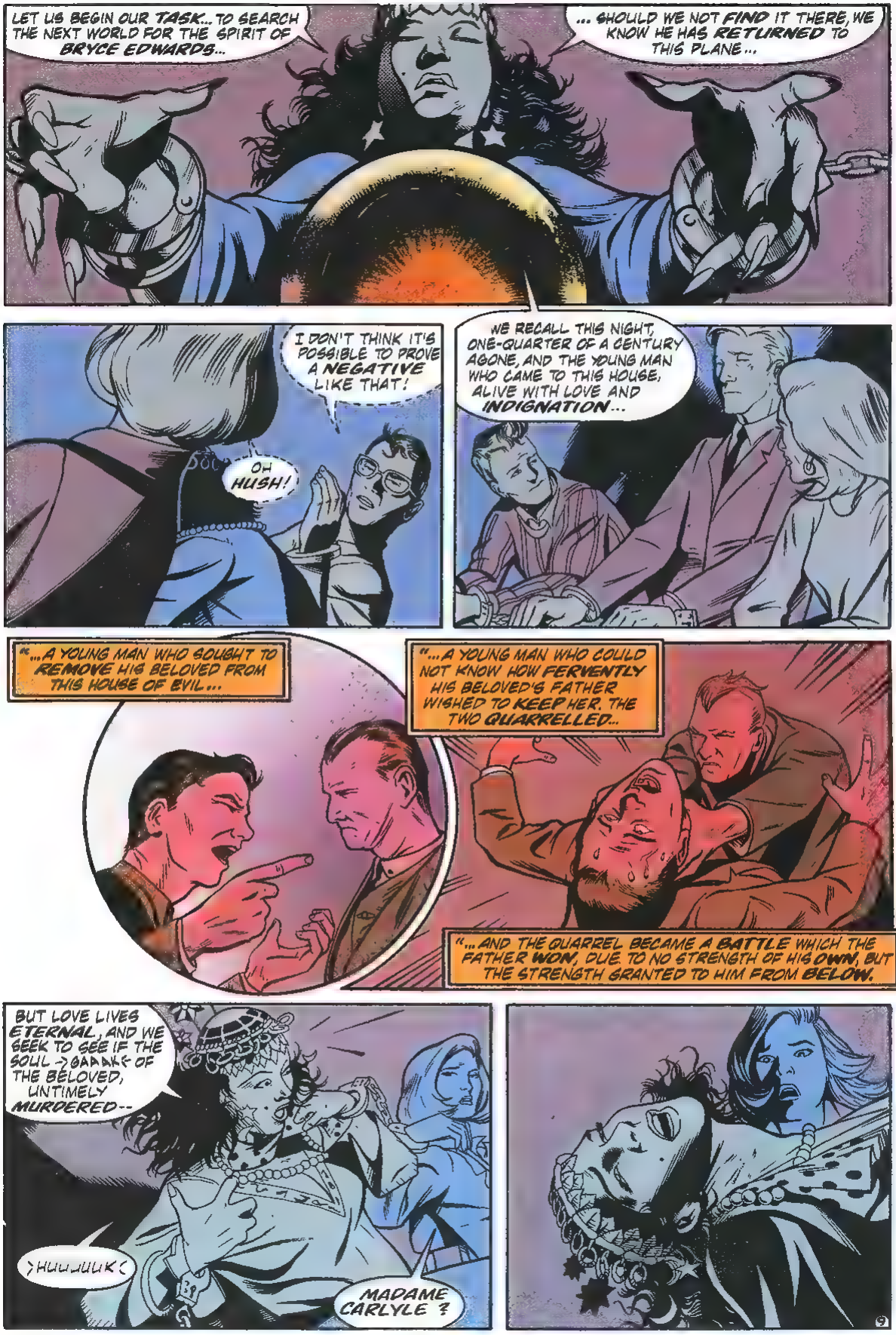
#1 -- All ages, by the creator of *Pogo*! ($6.95)

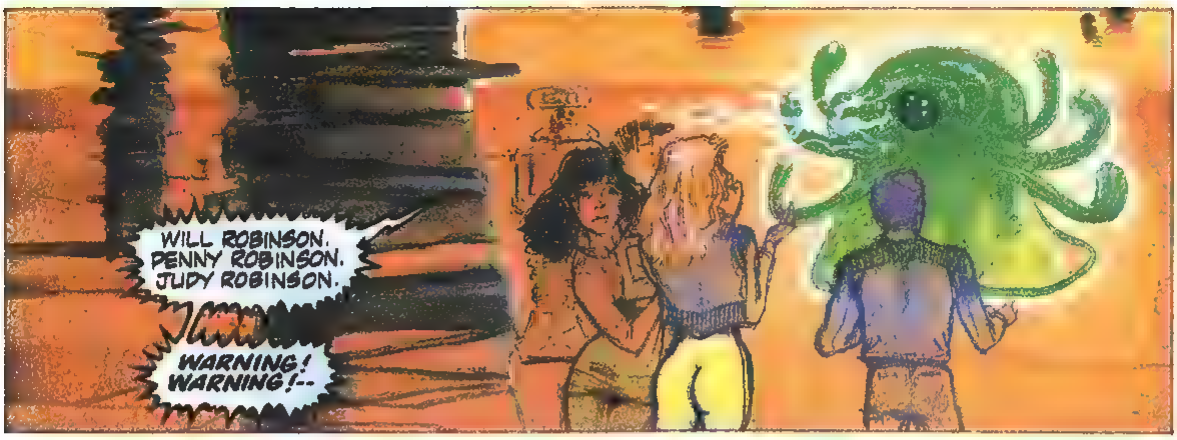

LET US BEGIN OUR TASK... TO SEARCH THE NEXT WORLD FOR THE SPIRIT OF BRYCE EDWARDS...
... SHOULD WE NOT FIND IT THERE, WE KNOW HE HAS RETURNED TO THIS PLANE...
I DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE TO PROVE A NEGATIVE LIKE THAT!
OH HUSH!
WE RECALL THIS NIGHT, ONE-QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGONE, AND THE YOUNG MAN WHO CAME TO THIS HOUSE, ALIVE WITH LOVE AND INDIGNATION...
"...A YOUNG MAN WHO SOUGHT TO REMOVE HIS BELOVED FROM THIS HOUSE OF EVIL...
"...A YOUNG MAN WHO COULD NOT KNOW HOW FERVENTLY HIS BELOVED'S FATHER WISHED TO KEEP HER. THE TWO QUARRELLED...
"...AND THE QUARREL BECAME A BATTLE WHICH THE FATHER WON, DUE TO NO STRENGTH OF HIS OWN, BUT THE STRENGTH GRANTED TO HIM FROM BELOW.
BUT LOVE LIVES ETERNAL, AND WE SEEK TO SEE IF THE SOUL ->GAAAK<- OF THE BELOVED, UNTIMELY MURDERED--
>HUUUUUK<
MADAME CARLYLE ?

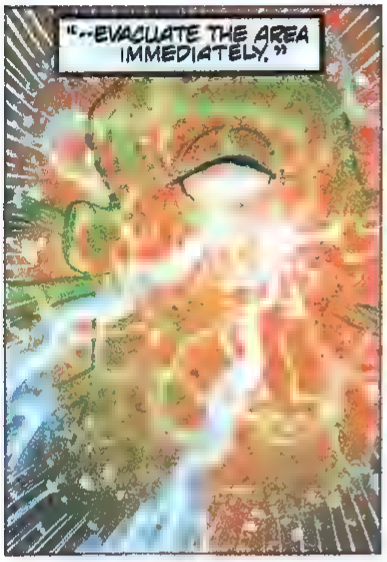
CLANK
CLA-KLIKT
HERE'S THE KEY, IN HER VEST. UNLOCK THEM, GABE.
SHE... SHE'S BEEN STRANGLED--JUST LIKE FATHER STRANGLED YOU, SCOTT!
WAIT, ALL OF YOU--!
THEY'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, JEN!
BUT THEY'RE PANICKING, AND IF ANY OF THEM HAVE ANY WEAPONS--
WHAT HAPPENED HERE, ANYWAY?
I WISH I KNEW. NO ONE COULD HAVE STRANGLED HER, BUT SOMEONE DID. STAY HERE, MAKE SURE NO ONE TOUCHES THE BODY.
UH... RIGHT. HURRY BACK, OKAY?
THEY MUST NOT HAVE TURNED THE PHONES BACK ON... CRADDOCK MENTIONED A RADIO. HIS ROOM IS OFF THE KITCHEN...
10

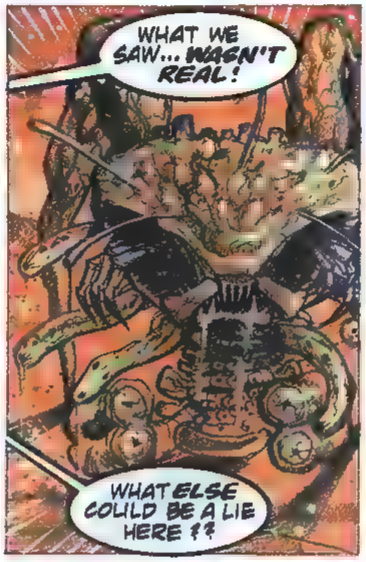
DAMN!
MR. CRADDOCK!
MISS MAYS? WHAT THE HELL'S UP? I SEEN SOME FOLKS RUNNING AROUND LIKE THEY WAS IN BEDLAM...
THE RADIO IN YOUR ROOM HAS BEEN DESTROYED! SOMEONE MAY TRY TO DO THE SAME TO YOUR BOAT!
THEY'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME, FIRST!
IF ANYONE'S TOUCHED MY LADY, I'LL--
MR. CRADDOCK, I SMELL SMOKE...
WHY'D SOMEONE DO THAT?
BECAUSE THAT SAME SOMEONE DOESN'T WANT US TO LEAVE.

I ASSURE YOU, MISS MAYS, SUCH FASCIST MEASURES ARE NOT NECESSARY!
I THINK THEY ARE, DR. RYKER...
...ANY OF YOU COULD HAVE DESTROYED THE RADIO AND IGNITED THE FUEL TANK OF CRADDOCK'S BOAT! WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEND A SIGNAL TO THE MAINLAND UNTIL MORNING...
...BUT UNTIL THEN, I'M TAKING NO CHANCES!
YOU AREN'T ANY KIND OF LEGAL AUTHORITY!
I'M SWORN TO UPHOLD THE LAWS OF NEW YORK STATE, MISS BRIMTON! IF YOU CAN FIND A POLICEMAN TO COMPLAIN TO, I'LL GLADLY DEFER TO HIM!
UNTIL THEN, EVERYONE TAKES A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT! THE WINTERSES CAN SLEEP TOGETHER, THE REST OF YOU GET A ROOM APIECE!
I SUGGEST YOU DON'T SLEEPWALK!
I'M AFRAID THERE'S NO BED IN HERE, MR. CLEMENT, BUT YOU CAN CURL UP ON THE COUCH!
SCOTT, NO! NOT THAT ROOM--!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, LILY...
...THIS WILL SHOW THAT YOUR FATHER'S UNHOLY INFLUENCE OVER US HAS BEEN BROKEN ONCE AND FOR ALL!
--THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID THE NIGHT HE MURDERED YOU!
BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE BRAVE ABOUT THIS, SO AM I--

SPECIAL BONUS PREVIEW!

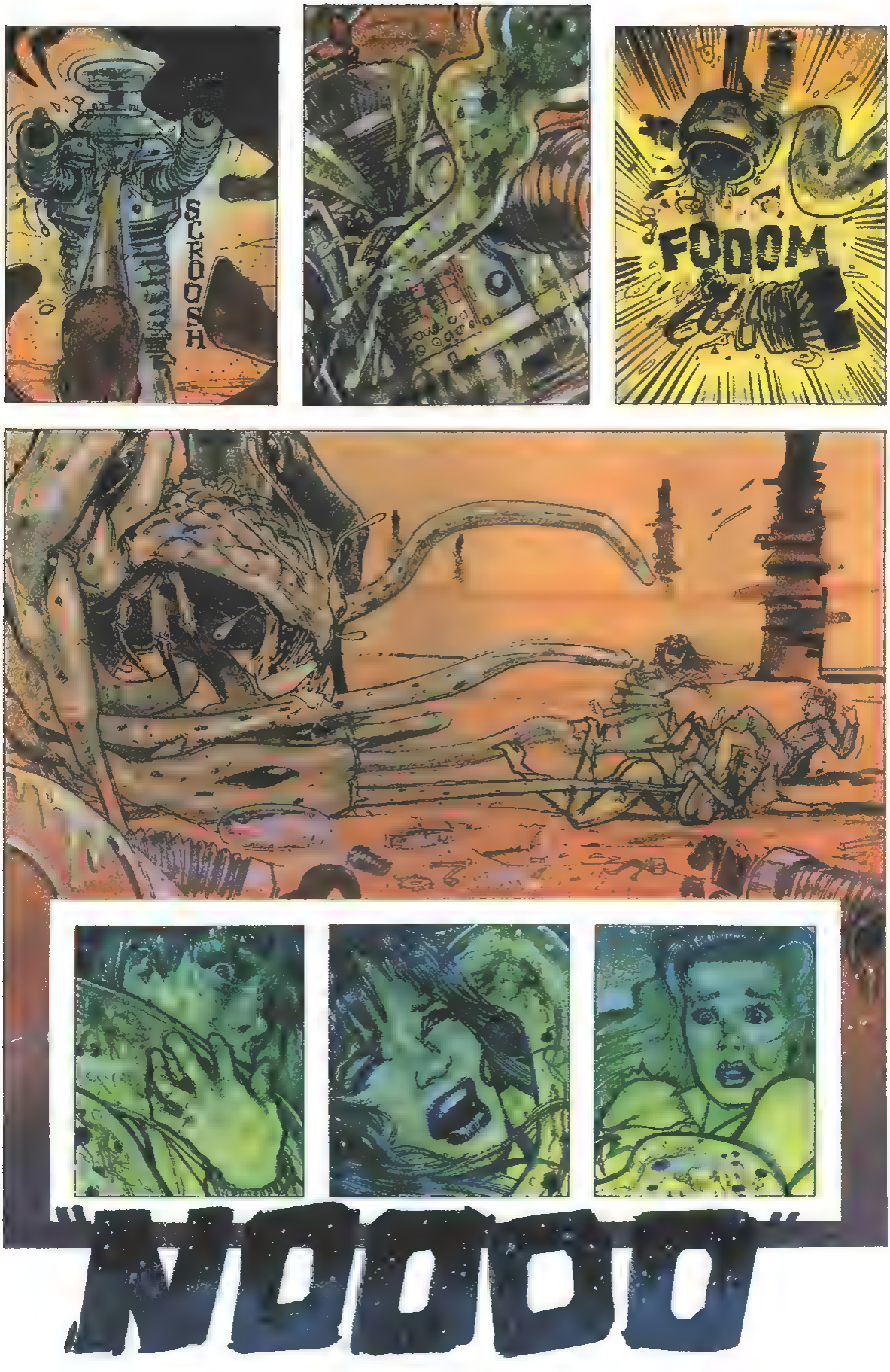

WILL ROBINSON. PENNY ROBINSON. JUDY ROBINSON.
WARNING! WARNING!--


"--EVACUATE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY."


WHAT WE SAW... WASN'T REAL!
WHAT ELSE COULD BE A LIE HERE!?

JUDY-- PENNY-- ROBOT--
HURRY!

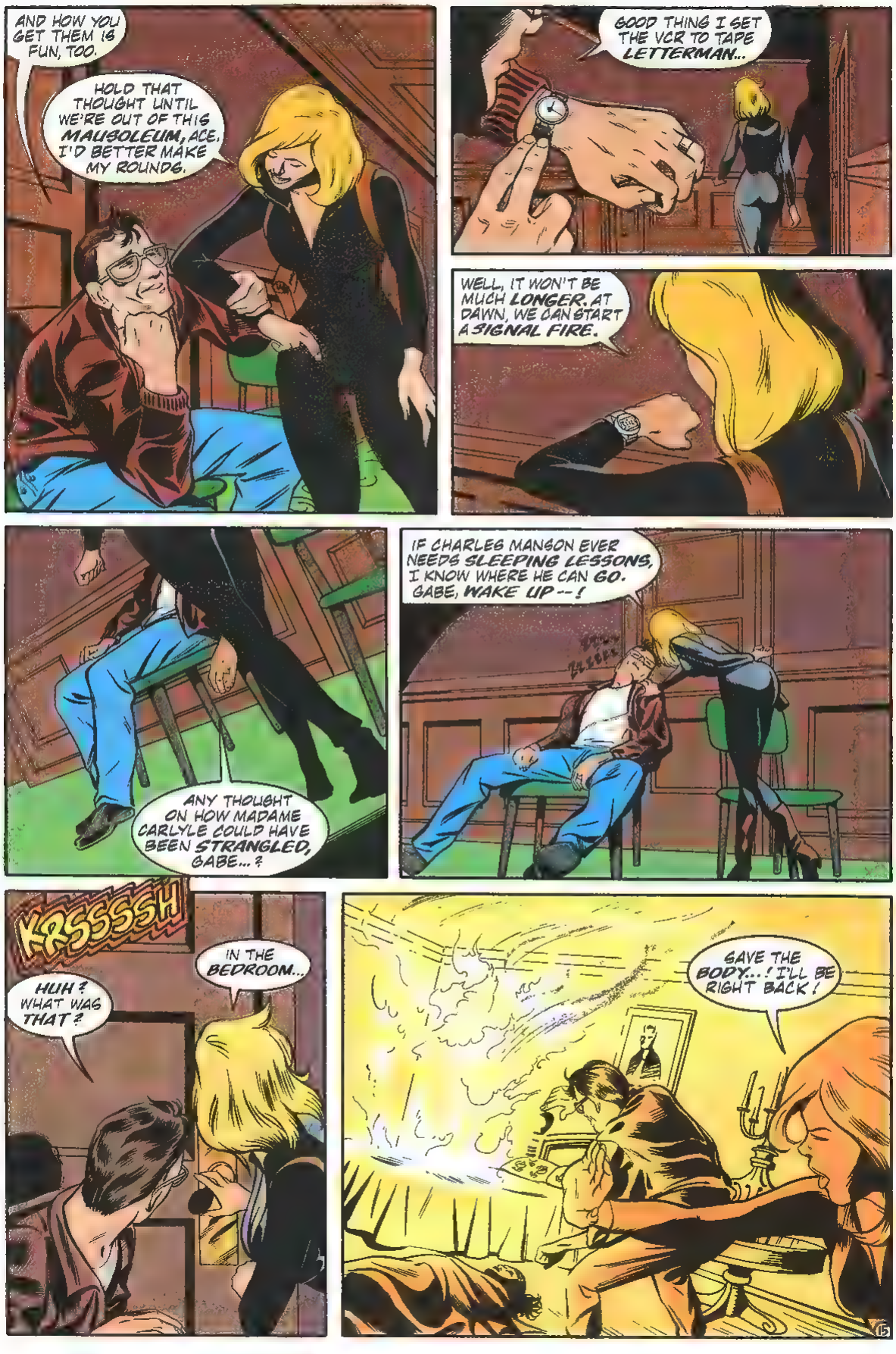
"WE'VE GOT TO WARN DAD!"


SCROOSH
FOOOM
NOOOO

LOST IN SPACE™
IT'S BACK.
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU'D EXPECT.
COMING IN MAY
INNOVATION

THIS IS THE RING YOU BROUGHT ME 25 YEARS AGO TONIGHT...
...I'VE SAVED IT ALL THIS TIME. WILL YOU WEAR IT FOR ME ?
CONGRATULATIONS, SON! I KNOW YOU'LL HAVE A LONG LIFE TOGETHER!
TO YOUR ROOMS, PLEASE!
THIS IS QUITE EXCITING, SPENDING THE NIGHT IN MY OLD ROOM WITH A MAN.
JUST DON'T FORGET WHAT HAPPENED HERE EARLIER, MRS. WINTERS, AND DON'T OPEN YOUR DOOR TO ANYONE BUT ME.
GOOD NIGHT, MISS BRIMTON DON'T OPEN YOUR DOOR TO ANYONE BUT--
MISS MAYS, WAIT. I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOME-THING...
...AND THIS IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF SCOTT AND ME... IT WAS TAKEN LAST WEEK.
THIS IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF BRYCE AND MYSELF... TAKEN IN 1966...
MISS BRIMTON, I'M AFRAID I DON'T--
13

I LOST HIM ONCE, MISS MAYS, AND HE RETURNED. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE, TO HAVE A SECOND CHANCE AT LOVE?
YES.
I'M DEATHLY AFRAID SOMEONE WILL TAKE HIM AWAY AGAIN.
I'LL TRY NOT TO LET THAT HAPPEN, MA'AM. DON'T OPEN YOUR DOOR TO ANYONE BUT ME.
OH, IT'S YOU! >WHEW<
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ASLEEP BY NOW, ACE.
CHARLES MANSON COULDN'T SLEEP IN THIS PLACE, JEN...
...ACTUALLY, CONSIDERING OUR ROOMMATE, MAYBE HE COULD!
WELL, WE HAVE TO PREVENT ANYONE FROM ATTEMPTING TO TAMPER WITH MADAME CARLYLE'S BODY, UNTIL WE FIGURE OUT HOW SHE WAS MURDERED.
NOT TO MENTION WHY.
THAT, TOO. ANY BRAINSTORMS ON EITHER SUBJECT?
NOTHING YET. AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL, ANY OF THEM HAS THE CAPABILITY TO DO IT -- EVEN MRS. WINTERS.
IMAGINE BEING A CHILD BROUGHT UP IN THIS HOUSE.
I WANT CHILDREN, YOU KNOW.
I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH THAT, BABE. I LIKE KIDS.

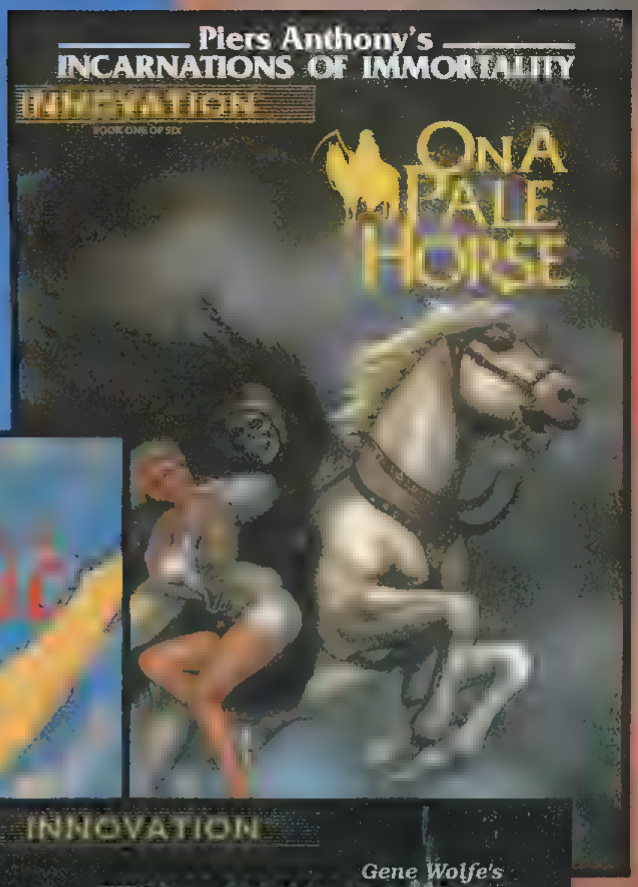

AND HOW YOU GET THEM IS FUN, TOO.
HOLD THAT THOUGHT UNTIL WE'RE OUT OF THIS MAUSOLEUM, ACE. I'D BETTER MAKE MY ROUNDS.
GOOD THING I SET THE VCR TO TAPE LETTERMAN...
WELL, IT WON'T BE MUCH LONGER. AT DAWN, WE CAN START A SIGNAL FIRE.
ANY THOUGHT ON HOW MADAME CARLYLE COULD HAVE BEEN STRANGLED, GABE...?
IF CHARLES MANSON EVER NEEDS SLEEPING LESSONS, I KNOW WHERE HE CAN GO. GABE, WAKE UP--!
KRSSSSH
HUH? WHAT WAS THAT?
IN THE BEDROOM...
SAVE THE BODY...! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
15

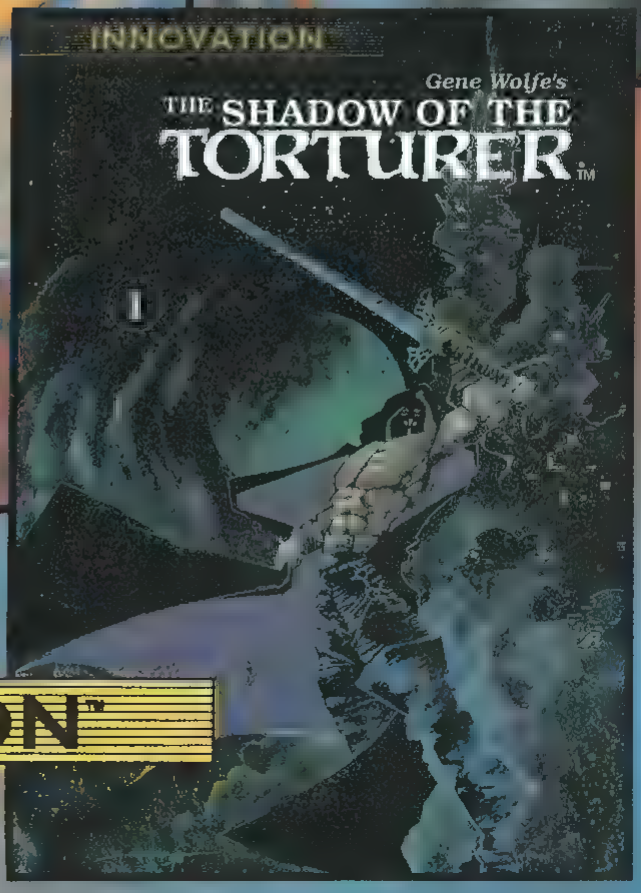
I KNEW CRADDOCK WOULD HAVE AN EXTINGUISHER! IS THE BODY ALL RIGHT?
THAT'S KIND OF A RELATIVE THING, ISN'T IT?
FOOOOSH
SMELL THAT SMOKE? GASOLINE! PROBABLY THROWN THROUGH THE WINDOW!
"NO DAMAGE TO THE BODY, JEN."
"NO THANKS TO SOMEONE."
EVERYBODY UP! NOW!
BAM BAM
MISS MAYS, WHAT IS IT...?
ONE OF YOU TRIED TO DESTROY THE BODY OF MADAME CARLYLE!
I DIDN'T SET FOOT OUTSIDE MY DOOR ALL NIGHT!
"WHOEVER TRIED TO DESTROY THE BODY DIDN'T HAVE TO, DR RYKER! THIS HOUSE IS BUILT INTO A HILL, THE EARTH OUTSIDE THE BEDROOMS IS GROUND LEVEL!
"IF ONLY WE'D HAD MORE SNOW..."

Anne Rice's
A Graphic Album of Unspeakable Horror
Anne Rice's
and
A Graphic Tale of Unspeakable Horror by the Author of The Vampire Lestat
INNOVATION
Anne Rice's
THE MASTER OF RAMPLING GATE
INNOVATION
Anne Rice's
THE VAMPIRE LESTAT
1
INNOVATION
2
INNOVATION

ON A PALE HORSE

Terry Pratchett's premiere Discworld novel:
THE COLOUR OF MAGIC



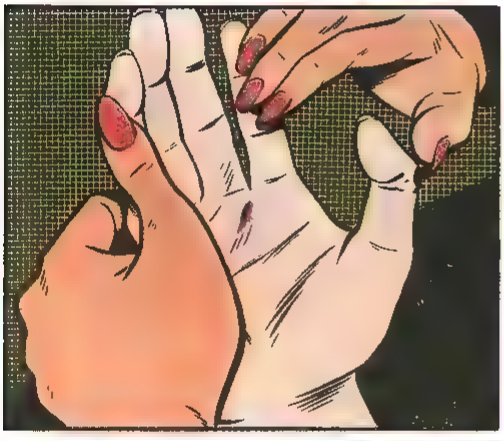


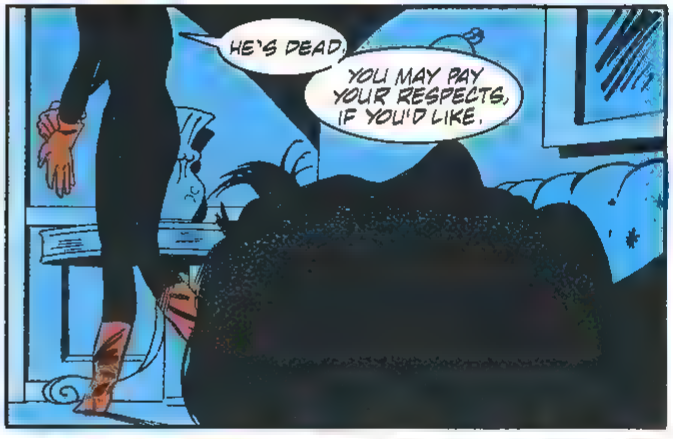
The Best-Selling Author's
Finest Work Appears From

INNOVATION™

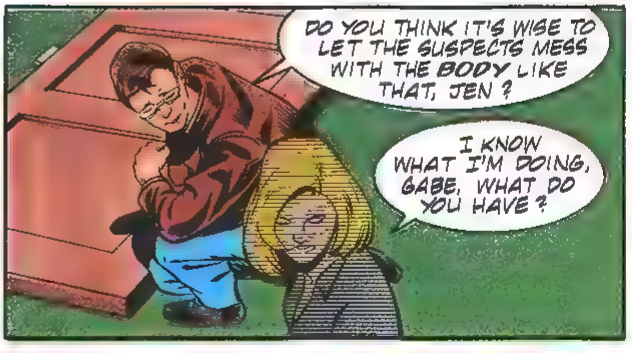
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY FOR ANYONE TO OBTAIN A KEY TO THE FRONT DOOR...
I KEEP THAT DOOR OILED M'SELF!
HAS ANYONE SEEN SCOTT...?
SCOTT?
THERE'S A BACK DOOR TO THIS ROOM...!
IT MUST BE BOLTED ON THE INSIDE, TOO, BUT AT LEAST WE CAN SEE.
"OH, MY."
THANKS FOR THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, JEN! ON "THREE": ONE, TWO...
YOU OTHERS, KEEP BACK! GABE, MR. CRADDOCK, BREAK THAT DOOR DOWN!
...THREE!
KA-RAK-KK

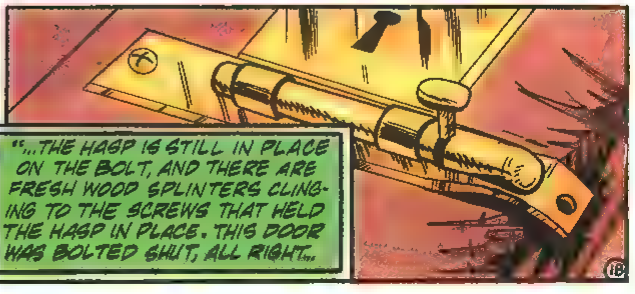
LET ME THROUGH--!
KEEP THEM BACK, MR. CRADDOCK. GABE, CHECK THAT BOLT!

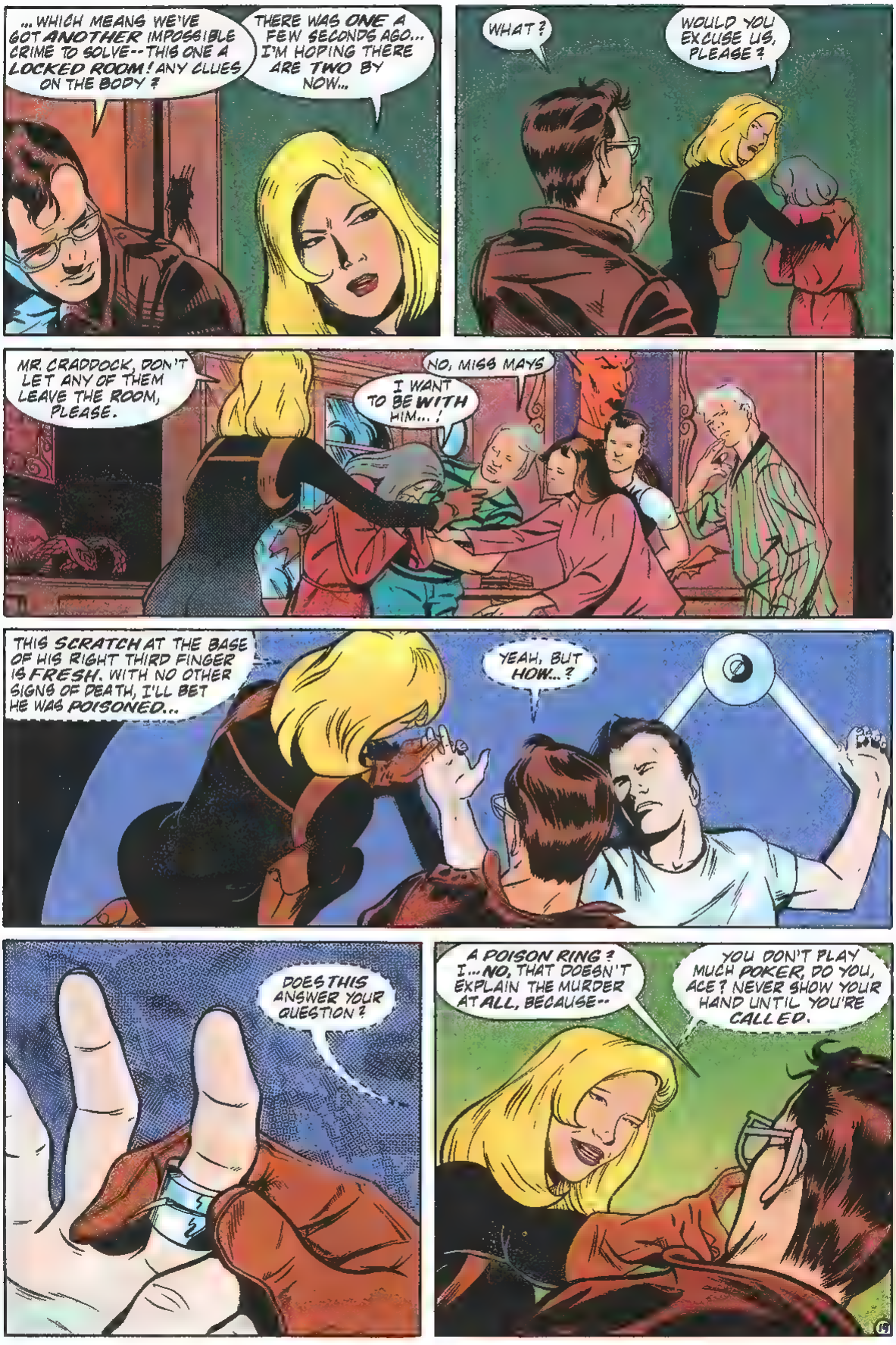


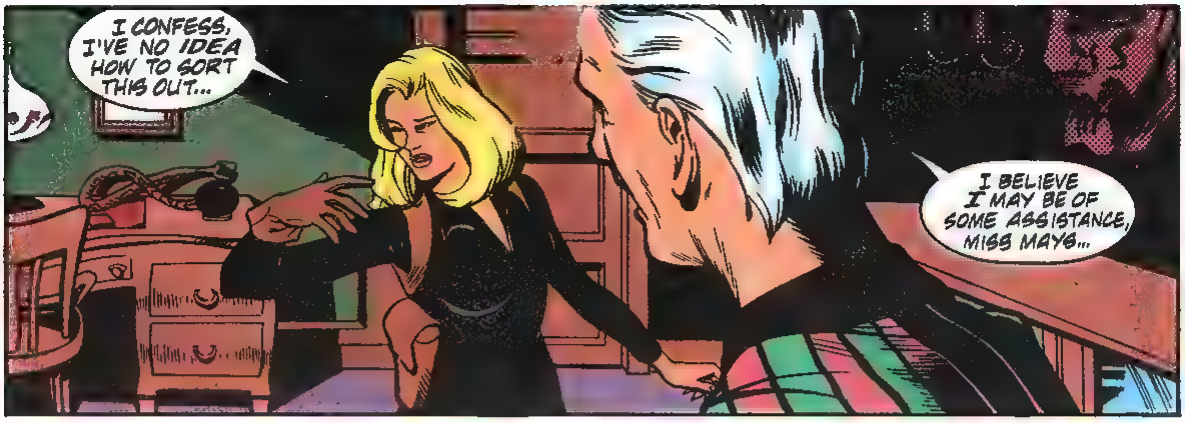

HE'S DEAD.
YOU MAY PAY YOUR RESPECTS, IF YOU'D LIKE.

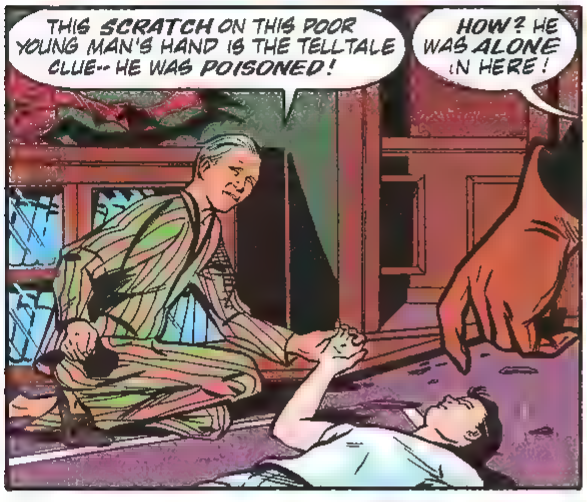
GOD, NO-- NOT AGAIN...!

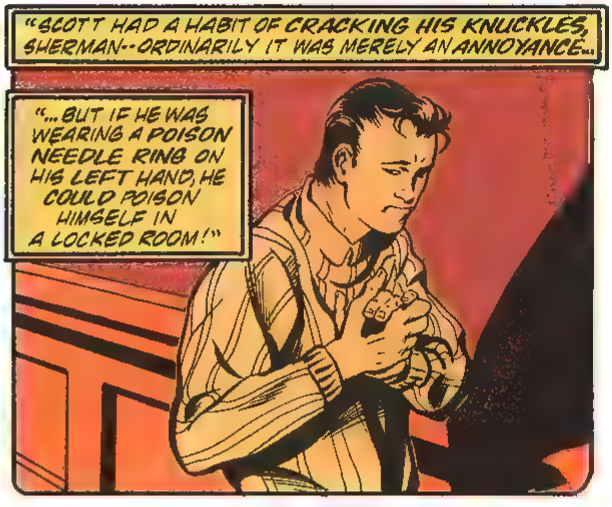

DO YOU THINK IT'S WISE TO LET THE SUSPECTS MESS WITH THE BODY LIKE THAT, JEN?
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, GABE. WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

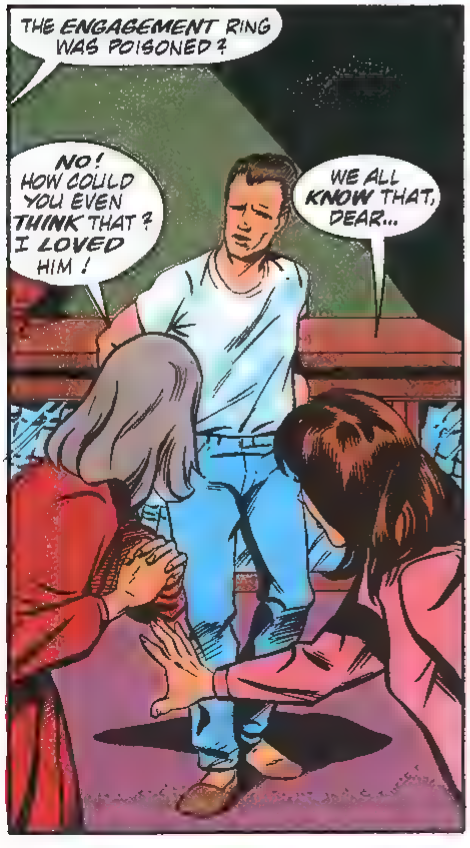

"...THE HASP IS STILL IN PLACE ON THE BOLT, AND THERE ARE FRESH WOOD SPLINTERS CLINGING TO THE SCREWS THAT HELD THE HASP IN PLACE. THIS DOOR WAS BOLTED SHUT, ALL RIGHT...

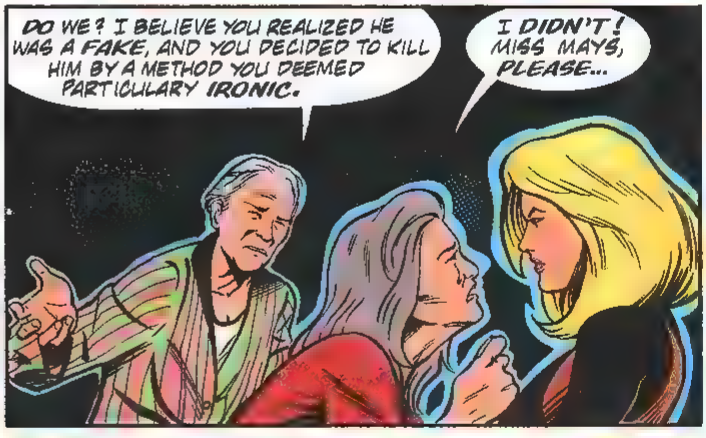

...WHICH MEANS WE'VE GOT ANOTHER IMPOSSIBLE CRIME TO SOLVE--THIS ONE A LOCKED ROOM! ANY CLUES ON THE BODY?
THERE WAS ONE A FEW SECONDS AGO... I'M HOPING THERE ARE TWO BY NOW...
WHAT?
WOULD YOU EXCUSE US, PLEASE?
MR. CRADDOCK, DON'T LET ANY OF THEM LEAVE THE ROOM, PLEASE.
NO, MISS MAYS
I WANT TO BE WITH HIM...!
THIS SCRATCH AT THE BASE OF HIS RIGHT THIRD FINGER IS FRESH. WITH NO OTHER SIGNS OF DEATH, I'LL BET HE WAS POISONED...
YEAH, BUT HOW...?
DOES THIS ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?
A POISON RING? I...NO, THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN THE MURDER AT ALL, BECAUSE--
YOU DON'T PLAY MUCH POKER, DO YOU, ACE? NEVER SHOW YOUR HAND UNTIL YOU'RE CALLED.

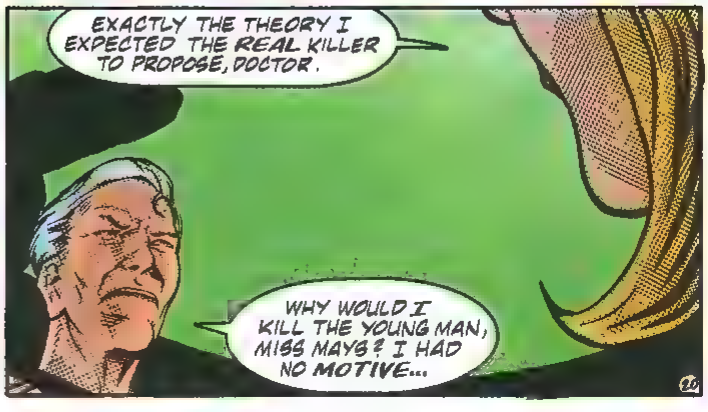

I CONFESS, I'VE NO IDEA HOW TO SORT THIS OUT...
I BELIEVE I MAY BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE, MISS MAYS...


THIS SCRATCH ON THIS DOOR YOUNG MAN'S HAND IS THE TELLTALE CLUE-- HE WAS POISONED!
HOW? HE WAS ALONE IN HERE!

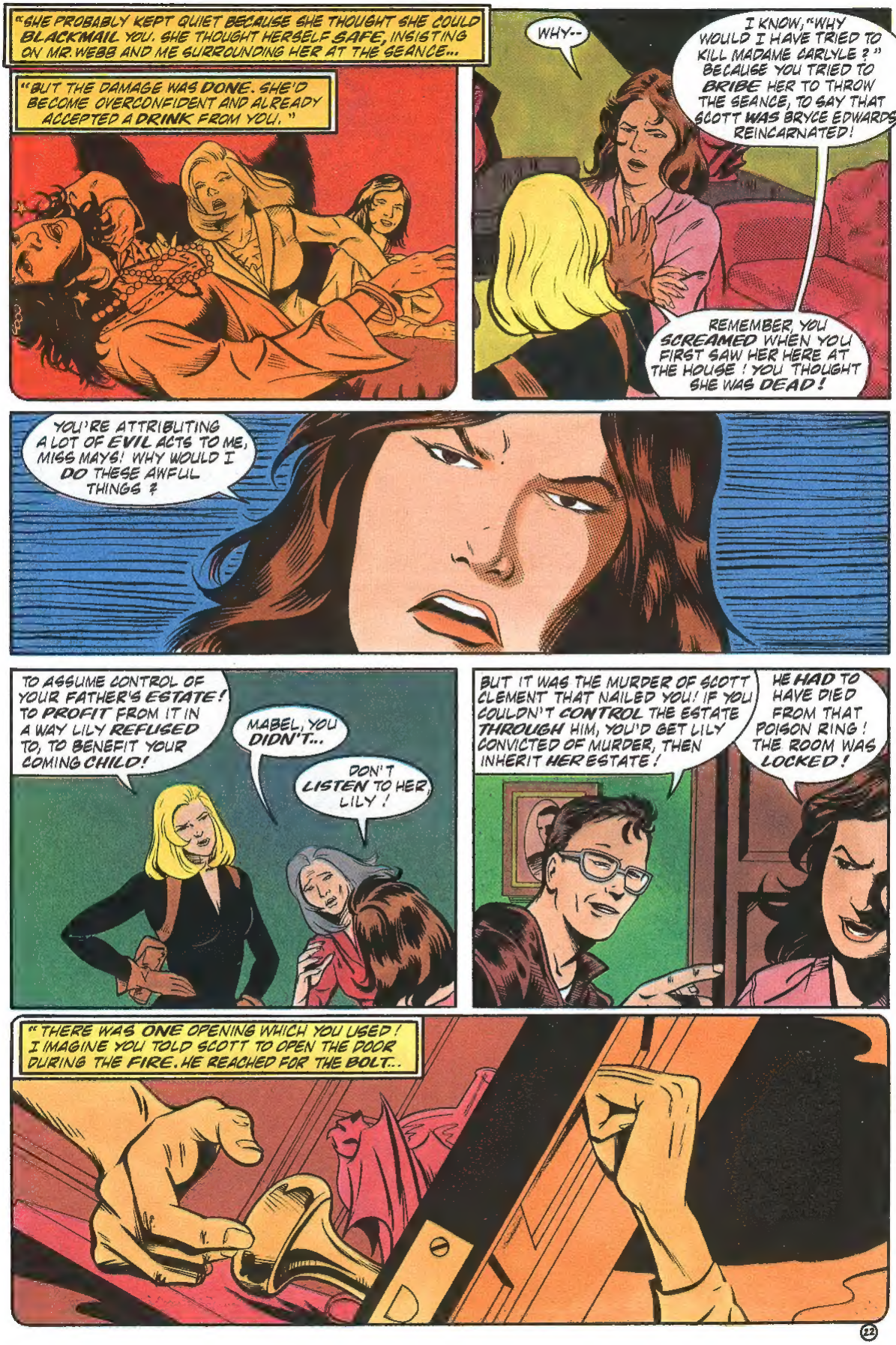

"SCOTT HAD A HABIT OF CRACKING HIS KNUCKLES, SHERMAN--ORDINARILY IT WAS MERELY AN ANNOYANCE...
"...BUT IF HE WAS WEARING A POISON NEEDLE RING ON HIS LEFT HAND, HE COULD POISON HIMSELF IN A LOCKED ROOM!"

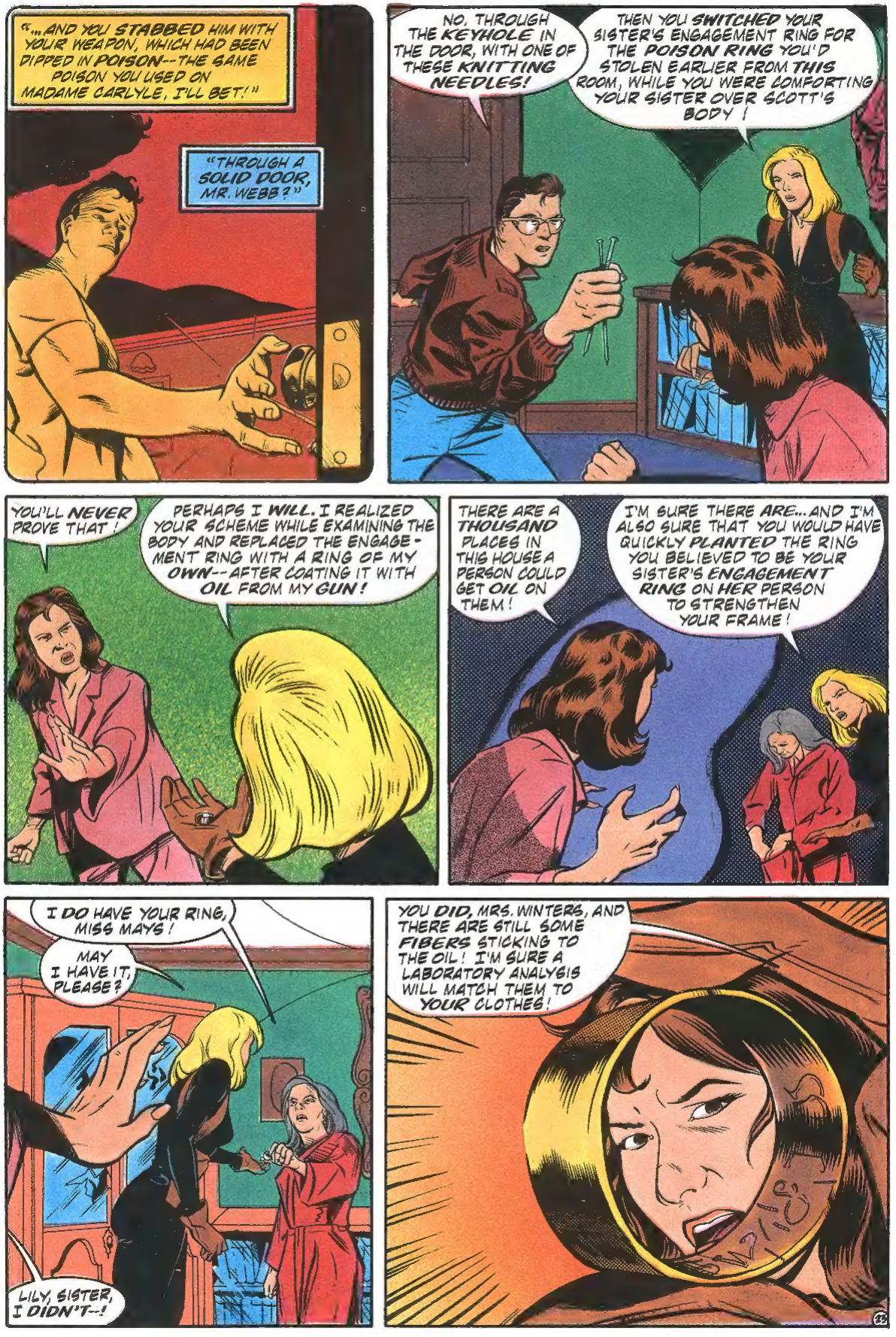

THE ENGAGEMENT RING WAS POISONED?
NO! HOW COULD YOU EVEN THINK THAT? I LOVED HIM!
WE ALL KNOW THAT, DEAR...

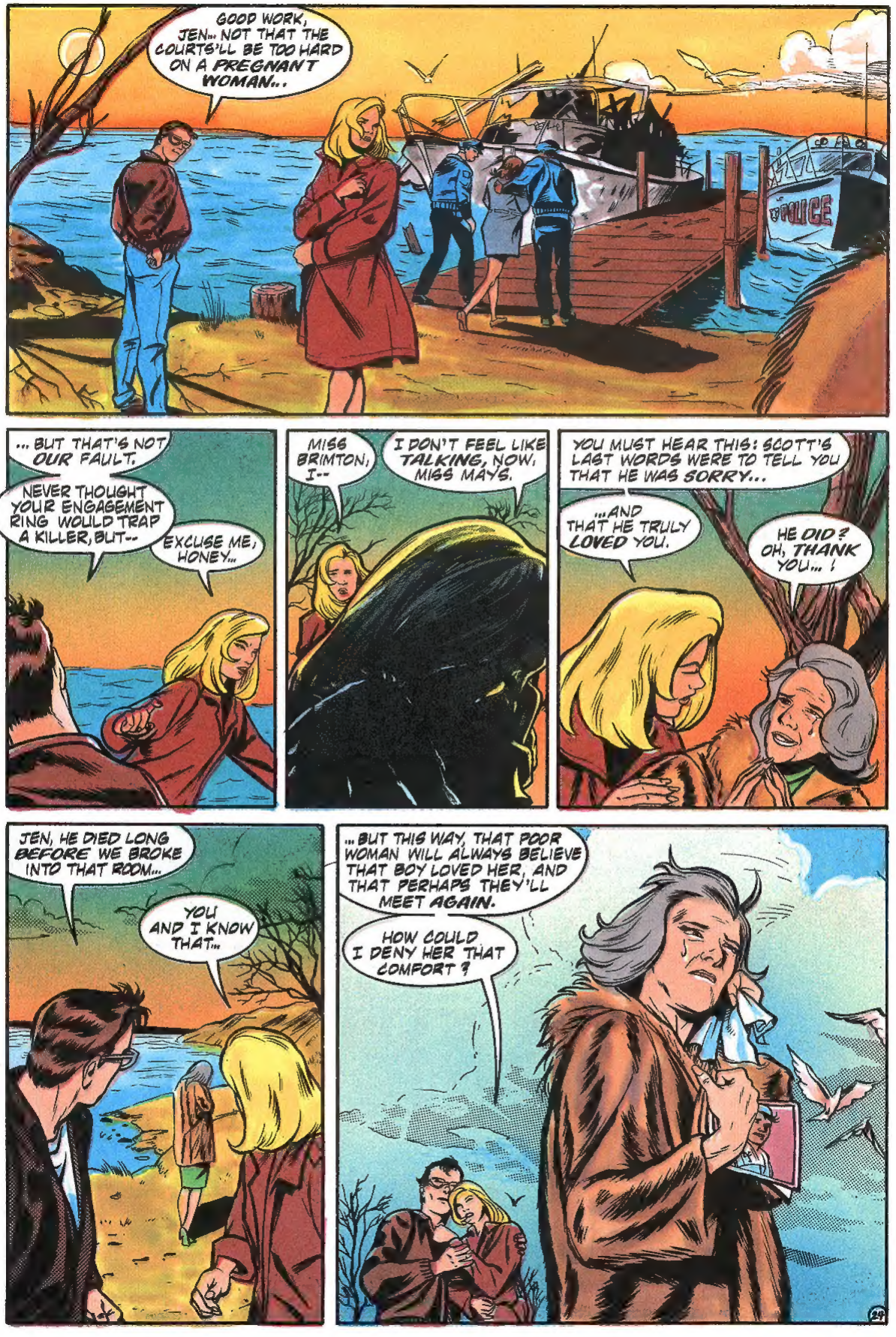

DO WE? I BELIEVE YOU REALIZED HE WAS A FAKE, AND YOU DECIDED TO KILL HIM BY A METHOD YOU DEEMED PARTICULARY IRONIC.
I DIDN'T! MISS MAYS, PLEASE...


EXACTLY THE THEORY I EXPECTED THE REAL KILLER TO PROPOSE, DOCTOR.
WHY WOULD I KILL THE YOUNG MAN, MISS MAYS? I HAD NO MOTIVE...

"NOT ONLY THAT, DOCTOR. YOU SHOOK HANDS WITH SCOTT USING YOUR LEFT HAND, AFTER HE WAS GIVEN THE RING BY MISS BRIMTON!
"SUCH A PRESSURE ON THE RING WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE TRIGGERED THE NEEDLE, HAD SHE GIVEN HIM THE POISON RING, SO SHE HADN'T."
BUT... HOW DID HE DIE? WHO KILLED HIM?
THAT'S TIED INTO THE MURDER OF MADAME CARLYLE. WE WERE LETTING THOSE BRUISES ON HER THROAT LEAD US IN THE WRONG DIRECTION...
"... SHE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN STRANGLED IN THAT ROOM, I THINK SHE WAS GIVEN POISON IN THE DRINK SHE HAD BEFORE THE SEANCE!
"AND WHO SERVED HER THAT DRINK...?
YOU, MRS. WINTERS! MR CRADDOCK IS CLEARED BECAUSE HE WASN'T EVEN PRESENT WHEN DRINKS WERE SERVED!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! WHY WOULD I HAVE DONE THAT?
BECAUSE YOUR EARLIER ATTEMPT TO MURDER MADAME CARLYLE FAILED! YOU--OR MORE PROBABLY, SCOTT, YOUR ACCOMPLICE--TRIED TO STRANGLE HER!
THAT WAS HOW SHE GOT THE BRUISES ON HER THROAT! WE DIDN'T SEE THEM UNTIL AFTER SHE WAS DEAD!
"YOU BLEW UP THE BOAT AND DESTROYED THE RADIO SO WE COULDN'T HAVE THE BODY AUTOPSIED! IT WAS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE TO PLAY UP THE SUPERNATURAL!
"YOU TRIED TO BURN THE BODY, BUT I'D ALREADY REALIZED THE TRUTH BY THE DEAD FLIES, POISONED WHEN THEY LIT ON HER MOUTH!


"SHE PROBABLY KEPT QUIET BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT SHE COULD BLACKMAIL YOU. SHE THOUGHT HERSELF SAFE, INSISTING ON MR. WEBB AND ME SURROUNDING HER AT THE SEANCE...
"BUT THE DAMAGE WAS DONE. SHE'D BECOME OVERCONFIDENT AND ALREADY ACCEPTED A DRINK FROM YOU."
WHY--
I KNOW, "WHY WOULD I HAVE TRIED TO KILL MADAME CARLYLE?" BECAUSE YOU TRIED TO BRIBE HER TO THROW THE SEANCE, TO SAY THAT SCOTT WAS BRYCE EDWARDS REINCARNATED!
REMEMBER, YOU SCREAMED WHEN YOU FIRST SAW HER HERE AT THE HOUSE! YOU THOUGHT SHE WAS DEAD!
YOU'RE ATTRIBUTING A LOT OF EVIL ACTS TO ME, MISS MAYS! WHY WOULD I DO THESE AWFUL THINGS?
TO ASSUME CONTROL OF YOUR FATHER'S ESTATE! TO PROFIT FROM IT IN A WAY LILY REFUSED TO, TO BENEFIT YOUR COMING CHILD!
MABEL, YOU DIDN'T...
DON'T LISTEN TO HER, LILY!
BUT IT WAS THE MURDER OF SCOTT CLEMENT THAT NAILED YOU! IF YOU COULDN'T CONTROL THE ESTATE THROUGH HIM, YOU'D GET LILY CONVICTED OF MURDER, THEN INHERIT HER ESTATE!
HE HAD TO HAVE DIED FROM THAT POISON RING! THE ROOM WAS LOCKED!
"THERE WAS ONE OPENING WHICH YOU USED! I IMAGINE YOU TOLD SCOTT TO OPEN THE DOOR DURING THE FIRE. HE REACHED FOR THE BOLT...


"...AND YOU STABBED HIM WITH YOUR WEAPON, WHICH HAD BEEN DIPPED IN POISON--THE SAME POISON YOU USED ON MADAME CARLYLE, I'LL BET!"
"THROUGH A SOLID DOOR, MR. WEBB?"
NO. THROUGH THE KEYHOLE IN THE DOOR, WITH ONE OF THESE KNITTING NEEDLES!
THEN YOU SWITCHED YOUR SISTER'S ENGAGEMENT RING FOR THE POISON RING YOU'D STOLEN EARLIER FROM THIS ROOM, WHILE YOU WERE COMFORTING YOUR SISTER OVER SCOTT'S BODY!
YOU'LL NEVER PROVE THAT!
PERHAPS I WILL. I REALIZED YOUR SCHEME WHILE EXAMINING THE BODY AND REPLACED THE ENGAGEMENT RING WITH A RING OF MY OWN--AFTER COATING IT WITH OIL FROM MY GUN!
THERE ARE A THOUSAND PLACES IN THIS HOUSE A PERSON COULD GET OIL ON THEM!
I'M SURE THERE ARE...AND I'M ALSO SURE THAT YOU WOULD HAVE QUICKLY PLANTED THE RING YOU BELIEVED TO BE YOUR SISTER'S ENGAGEMENT RING ON HER PERSON TO STRENGTHEN YOUR FRAME!
I DO HAVE YOUR RING, MISS MAYS!
MAY I HAVE IT, PLEASE?
LILY, SISTER, I DIDN'T--!
YOU DID, MRS. WINTERS, AND THERE ARE STILL SOME FIBERS STICKING TO THE OIL! I'M SURE A LABORATORY ANALYSIS WILL MATCH THEM TO YOUR CLOTHES!


GOOD WORK, JEN... NOT THAT THE COURTS'LL BE TOO HARD ON A PREGNANT WOMAN...
POLICE
... BUT THAT'S NOT OUR FAULT.
NEVER THOUGHT YOUR ENGAGEMENT RING WOULD TRAP A KILLER, BUT--
EXCUSE ME, HONEY...
MISS BRIMTON, I--
I DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING, NOW, MISS MAYS.
YOU MUST HEAR THIS: SCOTT'S LAST WORDS WERE TO TELL YOU THAT HE WAS SORRY...
...AND THAT HE TRULY LOVED YOU.
HE DID? OH, THANK YOU... !
JEN, HE DIED LONG BEFORE WE BROKE INTO THAT ROOM...
YOU AND I KNOW THAT...
... BUT THIS WAY, THAT POOR WOMAN WILL ALWAYS BELIEVE THAT BOY LOVED HER, AND THAT PERHAPS THEY'LL MEET AGAIN.
HOW COULD I DENY HER THAT COMFORT ?

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Next Issue:

"VALENTINE'S SLAY!"

Cover by Tom Mandrake!